concerned. State Governments and various Central Government Departments have been requested that ration cards should not be used as documents for establishing identity or proof of residence. Other valid documents like voters identity cards, passport, identity cards issued by Income Tax authorities can be considered for verifying the identity of persons.

Prof. Abhijit Sen Committee on quality norms of Foodgrains

4151. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prof. Abhijit Sen Committee has recommended that quality norms of grains should be adhered to and not relaxed at the request of grains producing States; and

(b) if so, the policy decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen in its interim report has recommended that the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms be strictly adhere o. If any State Government requests for relaxation of quality norms, this should >e invariable accompanied by an appropriate price reduction, besides exemption rom statutory State levies.

(b) The final report of Prof. Abhijit Sen Committee is awaited. A final iew will be taken thereafter.

Cost of wheat storage in States

4152. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Mini r of CONSUMER MRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION to. pleased to state:

' the storage cost of wheat per tonne in Punjab.I! ana and the cities ai and Kolkata, separately;

b) whether the storage charges are paid uniformly by Government to all ncies all over the country; and

(c) whether this cost is less than the cost of storage broke by FCI itself in iab, Haryana, Mumbai and Kolkata ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) For Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 storage cost has provisionally been allowed uniformly @ Rs. 21.00 per tonne per month to various States, including Punjab and Haryana, which procure wheat for the Central Pool. The storage cost is not fixed-city-wisc separately.

(c) Yes. Sir.

Forward trading in agricultural products

4153. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO :
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow "forward trading" in agricultural products to develop national market; and

(b) if so, by when, it would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government propose to widen the scope of future trading by including major agricultural commodities that are suitable for futures trading. The suitability of such commodities is studied/evaluated in terms of the volume of production, marketable surplus, product homogeneity, price fluctuations and operation of the existing market at the time the commodity is proposed. As such, no time limit can be specified.

Accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for petrol and diesel

4154. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for dispensing petrol/diesel are tested with the standard working measures as per Weights and Measures Act and the same is kept under the custody of the official of department;